

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously presented) A medical device comprising:

a core element including a first portion extending substantially longitudinally and a second portion including at least one loop and a helical coil tapering from a larger diameter at a proximal end thereof to a smaller diameter at a distal end thereof, wherein the at least one loop is located at a distance from the proximal end of the helical coil that is substantially greater than a distance between wound sections of the helical coil.

56. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 55 wherein the core element comprises a shape-memory material.

57. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 55 further comprising a flat wire substantially wrapping the first and second portions of the core element.

58. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 57 wherein a distal end of the flat wire is attached to the distal end of the helical coil.

59. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 57 wherein the flat wire comprises a square cross-section.
60. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 57 wherein a layer of a polymeric material substantially covers an outer surface of the flat wire.
61. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 57 wherein a layer of a polymeric material substantially covers a portion of the flat wire wrapping the helical coil.
62. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 55 wherein the helical coil is adapted to ensnare objects in an anatomical lumen.
63. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 55 wherein the helical coil and the at least one loop substantially deform upon being subjected to a force along a longitudinal axis of the core element.
64. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 63 wherein the helical coil and the at least one loop substantially reform upon cessation of the force exerted along the longitudinal axis of the core element.
65. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 55 wherein the helical coil and the at least one loop are reversibly transformed into a substantially linear configuration.

66. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 55 further comprising a catheter adapted to receive the core element.

67. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 55 wherein the helical coil assumes a substantially linear configuration when positioned within the catheter and expands back into a tapered configuration upon removal from the catheter.

68. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 55 further comprising a sheath substantially covering the second portion of the core element:

69. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 68 wherein the sheath is heat-shrunk about the second portion of the core element.

70. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 68 wherein the sheath comprises a polymeric material.

71. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 68 wherein the sheath comprises a heat shrink extrusion with a plurality of colors along a length thereof.

72. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 71 wherein the heat shrink extrusion and the plurality of colors along the length thereof are resistant to laser energy.

73. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 55 further comprising: A flat wire substantially wrapping the first portion of the core element; and a polymer sheath coupled to a distal end of the flat wire and adapted to substantially cover the second portion of the core element.

74. (Previously presented) A medical device comprising:
a core element including a first portion extending substantially longitudinally and a second portion including at least one loop and a helical coil, the helical coil tapering from a larger diameter at a proximal end thereof to a smaller diameter at a distal end thereof, wherein a wound section of the at least one loop is disposed substantially perpendicular to a wound section of the helical coil.

75. (New) A medical device comprising:
an elongate sleeve defining a lumen extending longitudinally within at least a portion of the elongate sleeve;

an elongate core slidably disposable within the lumen, the core having a distal portion capable of transforming between an unrestrained configuration forming a plurality of coils disposed in a conical shape and a restrained configuration forming a substantially linear shape; and

wherein the distal portion of the elongate core includes a coating having a color different from that of the sheath.

76. (New) The medical device of claim 75, wherein the elongate core includes a proximal portion having a substantially linear shape in an unrestrained configuration.

77. (New) The medical device of claim 75, wherein the proximal portion of the elongate core includes a coating having a color different from that of the coating covering the distal portion of the elongate core.

78. (New) The medical device of claim 75, wherein the coating along the distal portion of the elongate core comprises a plurality of colors along a length of the coating.

79. (New) The medical device of claim 75, wherein the coating along the distal portion of the elongate core comprises at least one colored stripe having a color different from that of a remaining portion of the coating.

80. (New) The medical device of claim 79, wherein the colored stripe extends in a helical configuration along a length of the coating.

81. (New) The medical device of claim 79, wherein the colored stripe extends medially along the coating in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the elongate core when the core is in a linear unrestrained configuration.

82. (New) The medical device of claim 79, wherein the stripe color is more reflective of laser energy than the color of the remaining portion of the coating.

83. (New) The medical device of claim 75, wherein the elongate core includes a proximal portion having a shape comprised of at least one loop in an unrestrained configuration.

84. (New) The medical device of claim 83, wherein the proximal portion of the elongate core includes a coating having a color different from that of the coating covering the distal portion of the elongate core.

85. (New) The medical device of claim 83, wherein the at least one loop is located at a distance from a proximal end of the distal portion that is substantially greater than a distance between wound sections of the plurality of coils.

86. (New) The medical device of claim 75, wherein the coating comprises one of PTFE, EPTFE, ETFE, or a combination thereof.

87. (New) A medical device comprising:

an elongate sleeve defining a lumen extending longitudinally within at least a portion of the elongate sleeve;

an elongate core formed at least in part of nickel-titanium alloy and slidably disposable within the lumen, the core having a distal portion capable of transforming between an unrestrained configuration forming between 5 and 15 coils disposed in a conical shape and a restrained configuration forming a substantially linear shape;

wherein adjacent turns of the coil are separated by a space less than 2 mm, and
wherein a portion of the core includes a coating having a color different from that
of a portion of the sheath.